NEWSLINE

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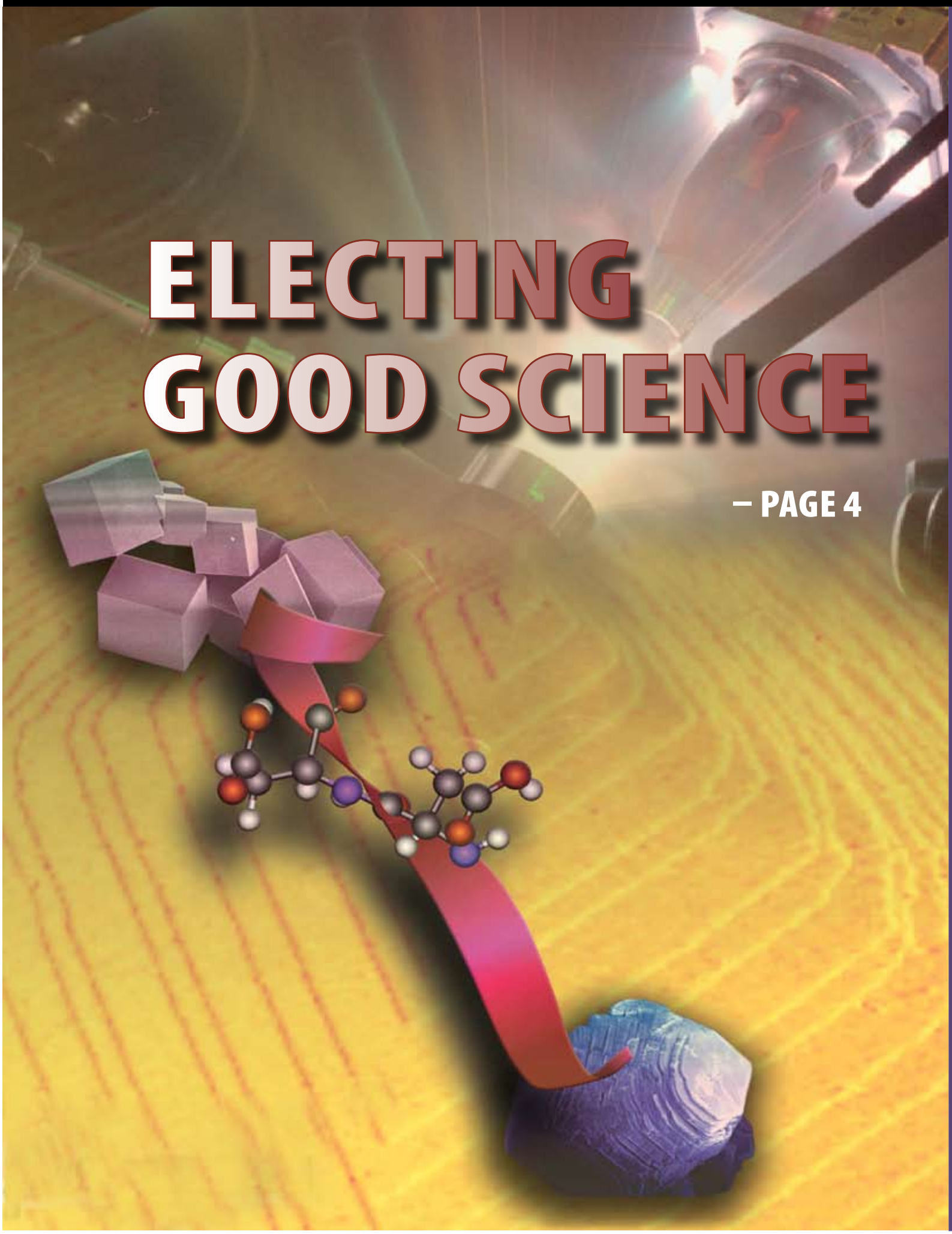

ELECTING GOOD SCIENCE

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PAGE 6

Looking for energy savings in institutional facilities

RETOOLING THE LABORATORY

As part of its 9 percent annual energy reduction campaign, the Laboratory also is putting into practice institution-wide measures that help to conserve resources, limit emissions and enhance energy security.

Among those is an government-industry effort to implement cost savings over the lifecycle of capital improvements. The effort uses a financing mechanism reauthorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC). In it, private industry invests in improvements and recaptures the cost from measured or stipulated energy cost savings over several years. The facility keeps the upgraded infrastructure and any extra energy cost savings.

"The largest single consumer of energy in the United States is the federal government, spending $4 billion a year for energy use in its 500,000 buildings," according to Congressional testimony of one ESPC contractor, Erbin Keith of Sempra Energy Solutions. "The federal government's 3 billion square-feet of floor space consume more than 60 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year."

In California, the Laboratory is the largest Department of Energy energy user. The DOE is encouraging all its facilities to participate in Energy Services Performance Contracts, and set up regional Super-ESPCs with energy service companies, including Sempra, Johnson Controls, Honeywell and Ameresco.

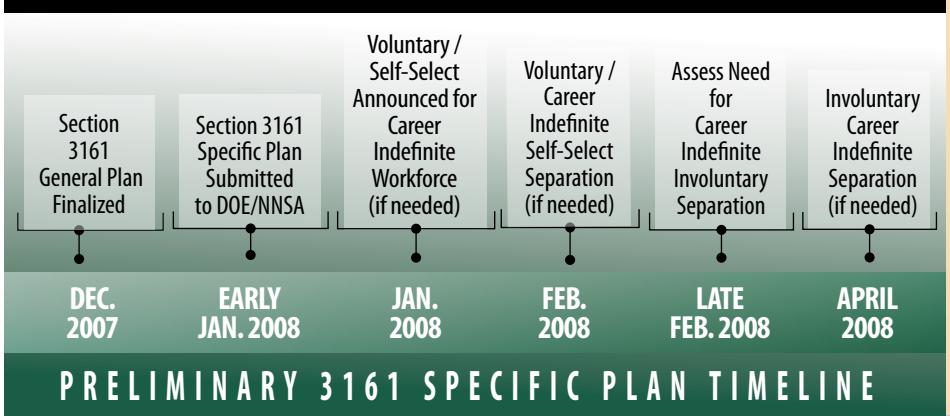
The Laboratory invited Johnson Controls to investigate potential energy-savings projects. An initial proposal of 19 projects was received in October 2006. Two were selected for implementation by the deputy director of Operations, after analysis by the Site Utilities Division, Energy Management Program manager, Finance Office and Livermore Site Office of the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"These projects are expected to position the Laboratory to help meet mandated energy reduction goals through FY 2011," said Energy Manager Blair Horst. Additional projects also may be implemented.

Construction of these initial improvements will begin in March 2008, continuing for some 22 months. One project will bring advanced energy management system controls to 27 buildings. Such systems optimize heating, venting and air conditioning based on true loads to the system. For instance, operations are automatically adjusted on weekends when the buildings are unoccupied, and flow rates, dampers and valves are adjusted based on the relative difference in temperature and humidity of inside air versus outside air. Also, 130 electrical meters are being installed. Together, the projects are expected to save $1.4 million, with a payback period of eight years.

"These were projects we thought were really viable," Horst said. "Safety and access are huge cost centers for major construction projects that need development and oversight." Of these energy conservation measures, resetting the temperature of chilled water systems (used for interior climate control year-round) to match actual building loads generally saves an estimated 5 percent to 20 percent, and running climate controls on an economizer cycle can save from 15 percent to 50 percent.

Such changes comply with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Executive Order 13423. Issued Jan. 24, 2007, it accelerates the goals for energy savings, greenhouse gas reductions and water savings. "As the nation's single largest energy user," explains the DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program Website, "the federal government has an obligation to lead by example to meet the president's aggressive agenda to reduce dependence on foreign oil and conserve resources. The new Executive Order raises the bar for federal leadership and performance."



House and Senate pass Omnibus bill

The House and Senate passed the Omnibus bill on Wednesday. It now has one more stop: the president for his review and signature.

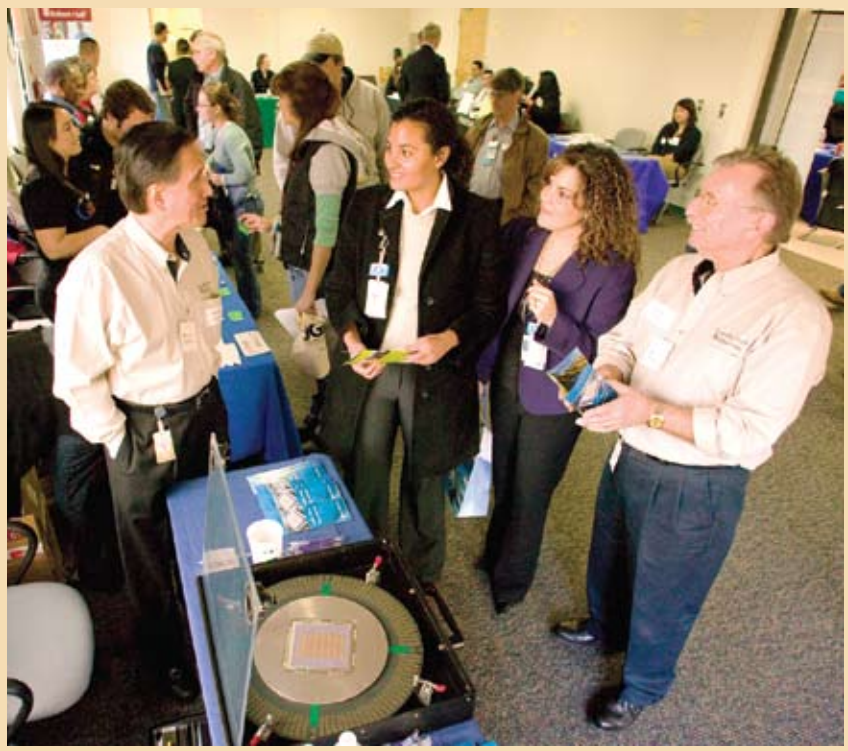
Based on these projected numbers, the overall funding for the Laboratory appears to be approximately $100 million less than FY07.

"This is the range we were expecting," Director George Miller said. "While there are differences based on congressional priorities, this provides the clarity for us to move forward to meet our major program commitments and continue our workforce restructuring as planned."

The one area with a major change in direction is that all funding for RRW was eliminated. Congress did add a new activity, an Advanced Certification Campaign, to address some of the issues raised by the JASONs in their review of RRW. Miller also noted that Congress increased the funding for nuclear non-proliferation activities, which could provide an opportunity for growth.

"Once the funding bill is signed into law and NNSA provides specific site allocation, I will make a determination regarding a voluntary separation package for our career workforce and FY08 raises," Miller said. "I expect to be able to do this after the first of the year. I want to thank all Lab employees for their patience during this lengthy continuing resolution and budget approval process."

Job fair



JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

The Strategic Human Capital Management (SHCM) and IAP collaborated to bring about 30 companies onsite at this week's job fair in Trailer 4675.

The fair, which took place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, attracted more than 720 employees. Lab HR employees Kelly Crawford, center, and April Dambrosio speak with company representatives from Livermore's FormFactor.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 5

Benefits-value comparator assessment list approved by NNSA

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) received approval from the National Nuclear Security Administration Wednesday on a list of benefits-value comparator companies, to fulfill one of its requirements in maintaining its current Total Compensation Package (TCP-2).

NNSA accepted LLNS' request for an equivalent TCP-2 to Los Alamos National Laboratory back in July. That acceptance was conditional for one year, and required re-evaluation of comparator companies and analysis of the LLNS TCP-2 benefits compared to this list, as well as an analysis of benefits costs. The first deliverable for this reevaluation was a new list of comparator companies, to be approved by NNSA by the end of 2007.

The current list of comparator companies includes companies comparable to the Laboratory. Eight of the companies are located or headquartered in California; four are located or headquartered in the greater Bay Area.

"I am pleased with getting over this first hurdle," said Tammy Jernigan, associate director for Strategic Human Capital Management. "We plan to work closely with Los Alamos as well as LSO on completing this assessment."

Rumor: If an employee is released from the Lab he or she will not be eligible for unemployment benefits, because the University of California never paid into unemployment.

Fact: If an employee leaves the Lab as a part of a voluntary or involuntary separation program, he/she may apply for unemployment and it would be up to the State of California to decide if their claim would be accepted. In either case, the Laboratory would not challenge the claim.

Rumor: The Laboratory is discouraging employees from using electric cars because they get to tap into free electricity.

Fact: The Laboratory always has and will continue to support employees who utilize alternative forms of fuel and transportation. This includes allowing employees to recharge electric vehicles.

Rumor: The Laboratory has made a decision to stop publishing wall calendars.

Fact: The Lab's wall calendar was evaluated as part of the Kitchen Cabinet's cost cutting evaluations. Based on the Labwide popularity of the calendars and minimal cost savings, a decision was made to continue printing this calendar. They will be available starting Dec. 28. To order calendars, check with your building coordinator.

LLNS selects trustee, adviser to administer defined benefit pension plan

Lawrence Livermore National Security's Benefits and Investment Committee (BIC) has selected a trustee and investment manager to help administer the LLNS Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

Since it was formed this summer, the Bank of New York Mellon (BNY Mellon) has established operating and investment policies for the plan and selected BNY Mellon as the trustee and Watson Wyatt as the investment adviser.

The BIC is made up of various members of the Laboratory and LLNS partner companies.

The BNY Mellon is a leading asset management and securities services company that has more than $20 trillion in assets under custody or administration and more than $1 trillion under management. Watson Wyatt is a global consulting firm focused on human capital and financial management and serves the world's largest pension plans.

The BIC has been developing the plan document and performing actuarial analysis in coordination with the University of California and NNSA/DOE to determine the amount of assets and liabilities to be transferred from UC to the LLNS plan (more than $1.7 billion). The plan document will be completed by the end of the year; the transfer from UCRP is scheduled for April 1, 2008.

During January, the BIC will select investment managers so they will be in place when UC transfers assets to the LLNS plan for TCP1 participants. The transferred assets will be invested in diversified asset classes to reduce volatility of total investment results.

The BIC will select 8-10 investment managers with expertise managing each asset class (e.g. fixed income, domestic large cap growth equities, international value equities, etc.). The BIC will report the funded status of the LLNS plan periodically.

LLNS pay statement update

In a timing change from previously announced news, Lab employees will continue to receive direct deposit statement copies at home or their work L-Code until late January. After W-2 processing is completed, employees will learn via *Newsline*/*NewsOnLine* how to opt in to continue to receive hard-copy pay stubs. Employees will be encouraged to adopt LAPIS as their primary pay stub delivery method.

LAPIS View Paycheck temporarily disabled

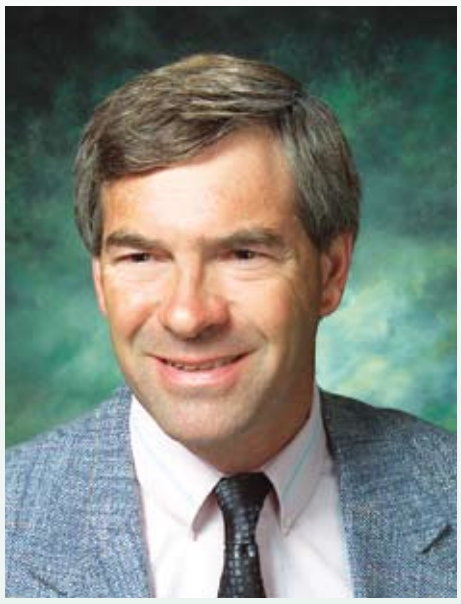
LAPIS View Paycheck will be unavailable from Saturday, Dec. 29, through Monday, Jan. 21. Only LAPIS View will be affected by the planned outage; statements of direct deposit will continue to be mailed out (see related notice). Employees will be able to resume using LAPIS View Paycheck on Tuesday, Jan. 22. The purpose of the LAPIS outage is to ensure confidentiality is maintained for releasing flex-term employees early.

SCIENCE NEWS

Three Laboratory physicists elected fellows of APS

By Nancy Garcia
Newsline staff writer

Peter Celliers



Jim De Yoreo

PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

Denise Hinkel

Three physicists from the Laboratory have been named fellows of the American Physical Society (APS). All of them happen to have carried out work that touches upon National Ignition Facility research in some fashion.

Receiving the honor are Jim De Yoreo, Peter Celliers and Denise Hinkel. They are among the 229 new fellows named this year. Each year, no more than one-half of one percent of current APS members are elected to the status of fellow.

The APS recognizes those who have made advances in knowledge through original research or made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology.

Hinkel joined the Laboratory's Laser Plasma Physics Theory Group in 1992 as a post-doctoral scholar from UCLA. She had learned of the Laboratory's reputation through seminal papers she read during her training.

She currently leads a simulation effort on beam propagation in NIF ignition targets. These simulations help establish the baseline target design for NIF's upcoming experiments that are aimed at initiating a sustained, controlled laboratory fusion reaction for the first time.

She was cited for extensive contributions to laser-plasma interaction physics and radiation hydrodynamic design of inertial-confinement fusion targets, and to the fundamental physics of linear and nonlinear wave propagation in plasma. In addition to her modeling and simulation research, she serves as the point of contact for the Weapons & Complex Integration Directorate to the Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program, managing the directorate's portfolio of applications and ongoing projects. Outside the Lab, she also serves the broader research community by organizing international meetings, providing journal peer-review and lecturing.

One of her favorite recent activities was speaking to recipients of a national undergraduate fellowship in June at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. Her purpose was to expose them to the work before they select a career direction and fire their enthusiasm.

"They were very interactive, very interested," she said. "Our novel simulation results coupled to the fact that NIF experiments begin next year served to intellectually engage quite a number of students."

For Jim De Yoreo, research into crystal growth for NIF laser optics led to ongoing studies of biomineralization, the field for which he was honored. His citation reads, "For his pioneering work using *in situ* force microscopy to understand the physical principles underlying biocrystallization, particularly the control of biomolecules and other modifiers on energy landscapes, step dynamics and morphological evolution during crystal formation."

Watching the process in real time with atomic force microscopy became a niche here, he said. "The citation is about the attempt to use tools that allow us to measure rates of processes, and understand the physics behind that.

"The current revolution in biology has come about due to the ability to look at living systems at a fundamental and mechanistic level. It has spread into physics, chemistry and materials science. We've come to recognize that living organisms are phenomenally well-adapted materials factories. Now we want to find a way to understand and mimic it."

Earlier this month, De Yoreo became deputy director for research at the Molecular Foundry, a Department of Energy Nanoscale Science Research Center at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where he will look at the biologically directed assembly of materials.

He said he got started in the field through attending a Gordon Conference on crystal growth around 1995, where a speaker presented a talk on biological materials. De Yoreo began an early-stage LDRD project, which led to ongoing funding from the DOEs Office of Basic Energy Sciences, among other funding sources.

"It's been a rather productive area," De Yoreo said. "Now it's very popular."

Peter Celliers was recognized for his contributions to improving ways of measuring shock waves used to study material states. He said he came up with variations and improvements of existing diagnostic methods to make them work with laser-driven shock waves. "It has applications in diagnostics used to study states of materials that we think exist within large planets," he said. "It's also useful for the National Ignition Campaign.

"The laser-driven shockwave platform has shown a lot of promise," Celliers said, "because it is really only the use of lasers that can allow us to get to really extreme states of pressure in a lab setting. The problem has been that it's hard to make accurate measurements on the space and time scale we have to work on. Everything with lasers is much smaller and happens much more quickly. It's really only within the last 10 years that we've been able to improve the accuracy of the experiments, and these diagnostics went hand-in-hand with it. It's another step along the way of maturing the platform and the scientific data we can produce with it."

Celliers expressed appreciation for a couple of aspects of the announcement. "It's nice to see the recognition. It's also important to recognize it's probably hard to imagine this happening at another institution."

For instance, he said, his management has been supportive of cross-disciplinary, exploratory research that has not been done before.

Top: A laser shot taken on a diamond anvil sample cell at the OMEGA laser facility.

Along with a graphic of acceleration of calcite kinetics by nacre proteins, which appeared on the November cover of *Advanced Materials*.

SCIENCE NEWS

For Spencer, engineering change is just good chemistry

By Don Johnston
Newsline staff writer

Diane Spencer's tireless advocacy on behalf of her profession has earned her election as a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

Spencer, a safety analysis engineer in the Nuclear Operations Directorate, has spent time in Sacramento educating legislators about the profession and seeking changes in current law that limit the role of chemical engineers in the state.

Laws regulating the engineering profession enacted some 60 years ago do not accommodate the emergence and evolution of new engineering disciplines such as fire protection, traffic, and notably, chemical engineering. Broad definitions given by state law to the traditional engineering categories of civil, mechanical and electrical engineers often restrict or prohibit engineers in new disciplines from practicing their profession.

"I don't think the intent of the law was to prevent engineers from doing work they're competent to do," Spencer said. "The law doesn't reflect the way we do business today.

"Current law puts the public at risk because you don't always have the most qualified person doing the job," she said. "These restrictions are often arbitrary."

Spencer has played an instrumental role in pulling together a support coalition for chemical engineers and now serves as a delegate for the California Legislative Council of Professional Engineers.

"We have accomplished a lot. The erosion of our profession has stopped, legislators know us,

JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

"Promoting the profession has become my passion."

– Diane Spencer

and we are less naïve about the legislative process," she said. "Promoting the profession has become my passion."

In keeping with her determination to promote the profession, Spencer has helped organize and conduct interview workshops at college and universities across Northern California for engineering students about to enter the workforce. Since the program began in 2005 more than 1,000 students have attended workshops.

"One of the great pleasures I have in these workshops is getting to know the graduates," Spencer said, noting that the interaction between working professionals and students is an added benefit of the workshops.

Spencer received her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Arizona and a master's in materials engineering from the University of Kentucky. She has more than 25 years experience in research, manufacturing and environmental safety.

Her powers of persuasion and deadpan humor are well know to her fellow Toastmasters — she's currently president of LLESA's Microcentury Toastmasters' activity group.

Paper reduction initiative goes into effect

RETOOLING THE LABORATORY

As part of the "save-dollars" recommendation process, several employees suggested that the Laboratory might be able to reduce costs by limiting the number of all-employee and directorate fliers that are printed and distributed through Lab mail.

"It was a very good suggestion," noted Barbara Peterson, transition manager. "I asked the kitchen cabinet to review this issue and it turns out that while we have significantly reduced our flier distribution in recent years, there is room for improvement."

A study back in 2006 as part of the Lab's effort to cut costs identified that approximately 1,162,686 one-page fliers were printed and distributed to employees that year. These fliers ranged from administrative memos to meeting notices, safety bulletins and human resources information.

When *NewsOnLine* went from a twice a week delivery to five days a week, many Lab organizations voluntary chose to use the vehicle instead to communicate information. For example, administrative memos are now available on-line. Thus in 2007, approximately 742,603 fliers were distributed — a reduction of 420,083.

The cost just to label each flier is 1.5 cents. "Depending on the perspective, there are additional costs to be considered" said David Shepard, Supply Group manager in Mail Services. "It is easy to forget that for every flier we distribute, there is the cost of the paper, the cost of the copier, the cost of the person creating the flier, the cost to label it and the cost to distribute. If we then throw out the flier in our recycling or trash container, we also add in the cost to dispose of it."

While the reduction in fliers and paper dissemination from 2006 to 2007 is a good start, the Lab's kitchen cabinet hopes even more can occur in 2008. "We encourage all employees to think about their paper and flier usage and to use electronic methods whenever possible," said Deputy Director Steve Liedle. One of the first to start the process will be *Newsline,* the Lab's weekly newspaper for all employees.

"We are really one of the last national laboratories to print a hard copy employee publication," said Susan Houghton, director of Public Affairs and Communications.

"*NewsOnLine* is an efficient way of delivering daily news to our employees. In February, we will launch a weekly electronic publication that continues the same in-depth features and stories available in *Newsline*."

Those employees who may not have computer access will be able to pick up PDF copies of the newsletter from their PAD and department offices. However, *Newsline* will no longer be printed. Approximately 3,000 retirees, who currently receive the publication via U.S. mail will be given the opportunity to receive the new publication via e-mail.

"This is the right thing to do not only for our cost-cutting initiatives under way, but for the paper that we will save," said Houghton. The cost to print *Newsline* annually is approximately $100,000.

"These suggestions came from our employees and they are noteworrthy ideas," said Liedle. "To date, we've received approximately 450 ideas. We are binning them and evaluating each for their possibilities. I want to thank everyone who has submitted something for us to review."

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Piecemakers ensure holiday season is just sew

JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

Members of the Piecemakers quilting group display their projects. The group focuses on outreach to the local community. From left: Mary Parker, Cheri Ables, Debbie Hackel, Mary Ann Soby, Donna Couture, Harriette Cochran and Liena Wasley.

Piecemakers has been really busy this year, stitching for the less fortunate. The primary focus in the organization is outreach projects that benefit the community.

Blankies-for-Grown-ups is an organization Piecemakers participated in this year that provides quilts for cancer patients. It started out for only breast cancer patients, but has expanded to any patient with cancer, men, women, or children. The "blankies" provide warmth for them when they're in a cold hospital room for hours getting chemo, receiving blood, or whatever else might need to be done for them to get better. Piecemakers contributed 22 quilts to this cause this year, two of which went to Laboratory employees.

Forty-seven preemie quilts and 46 tiny knitted hats were taken to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford for premature babies. The hospital then distributes to four hospitals, as they have as many as 1,900 preemies every year. "We're very happy to help new life have a soft, warm quilt to go home in," said Donna Couture, the 2007 Piecemakers co-chair.

In December, Piecemakers will distribute lap quilts and lapgans (crocheted afghans) to Bethany Home Care's 21 residents, and to Kennedy Guest Home's 6 residents, both in Livermore. Shoulder wraps also will be provided for the ladies, which have a pocket on each side for tissues and treasures, or just to keep their hands warm. These lap quilts and lapgans are for residents who have little or no family and/or visitors and need something to brighten their day, along with helping keep them warm.

Throughout the year, Piecemakers worked on wheelchair bags for the Veteran Remembrance Committee, which distributes the bags to veterans throughout Alameda County. These bags fit on the handles on the back of the wheelchair, for carrying charts, personal items, etc. This is an ongoing project by the committee, which delivered more than 100 wheelchair bags this year. Piecemakers members contributed about 30 of those bags.

Piecemakers also has made quilts for the Valley Humane Society for many years, sometimes two in one year – a cat quilt and a dog quilt – as fund-raisers for the society. This year, the cat quilt is being bound, getting ready for people to purchase opportunities to win the quilt. The dog quilt is almost ready. In the past, more than $1,000 for each quilt has been raised for the Valley Humane Society.

For the new year, the group has plans to continue with all the above projects except for the Valley Humane Society quilts. And, with all the injured veterans returning from Iraq, and the aging veterans in the area, Piecemakers plan to focus more veterans in place of the nursing home residents this year, Couture said.

'Brighter Holidays' shines on local families

BOB HIRSCHFELD/NEWSLINE

From left: The Prochnow family of Ceres enjoyed a special visit with Santa last week as part of the Lab's Brighter Holidays program.

Once again this year, Lab employees helped to brighten up the holiday season for families in need in Livermore and the Central Valley. On Dec. 14, donations and gifts were collected at the Public Affairs' Press Room near the UNCLE Credit Union and prepared for pick-up by families and program contacts. Two families were spotlighted, coming to receive gifts and a special visit with Santa Claus. This is the third year that Sherry Pratt of the Lab's CFO Directorate has led the Brighter Holidays effort. She reports that through generous employee donations of gifts and toys, the program helped 71 families or 315 individuals. "Lab employees came through again this year with their generosity," Pratt said.

Among the many organizations that have participated in the Brighter Holiday Program this year, one group stands out for generosity. The posdocs at the Laboratory teamed up this year to spread holiday cheer by bringing gifts and essential items to a family in need. Their donation drive allowed them to get everything on the family's wish list, including a shining new bike and a holiday dinner.

LLNL postdocs (from left) Jennifer Links, Karis Mcfarlane, Amy Gryshuk, Greg Bronevetsky, Janel Owens, and Carol Meyers stand next to the donations from the Laboratory's postdoc community as part of the Laboratory's Brighter Holidays Program.

Amy Gryshuk of the Chemistry, Materials, Earth and Life Sciences Directorate, who organized this grass-root effort, is pleased with the generous donations from the postdoc community.

"All in all, it was a team effort that brought postdocs from all directorates together to support a wonderful program," she said. "Many thanks to everyone involved and I hope we can do the same again next year."

PEOPLE NEWS

HELPING OTHERS MORE EFFECTIVELY

2007 HOME Campaign comes to a close

LEE BAKER

Mark Newton gave out this week's final HOME Campaign incentive prizes. Winners include, from left, John Taylor, Bud Summers, Peggy Sharp, Mark Newton, Karen Dehoyos, Kareem Kazkaz and Steven Ehle. Winners not pictured are: Ann Willoughby, Lila Chase and Laura Carter.

FINAL STATISTICS

This year's HOME Campaign closed on Dec. 14.

Total amount donated — $1,407,436.16

Total amount with matching LLNS contribution — $2,407,436.16

Employee participation — 28.73 percent

For a full breakdown of donation statistics by organization, see the chart at https://home.llnl.gov/

"Together we made a difference."

– Campaign Chair Dustin Riggs

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Newcomb

Peter Newcomb died at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, Calif. after a sudden, severe heart attack. He was 78.

Born in Detroit, Mich., Newcomb moved at a young age to Montreal, Canada where he later met and married Estelle Allaire. He earned his bachelor's degree in physics in Montreal and his doctorate in physics at UC Berkeley.

Newcomb's 30-year career in physics began at the Laboratory. His work initially focused on the design and fielding of energetic experiments at the Nevada Test Site for B-Division and progressed to matters of international security when Newcomb moved to Z-Division. Newcomb also established and initially chaired the vibrant bi-annual Nuclear Explosives Design Physics Conference (known as NEDPC), which continues today more than 20 years later, and still alternates between LLNL and LANL. Although retired in 1993, Newcomb continued to serve in a consulting capacity both formally and informally.

Retirement brought Newcomb the opportunity to spend more time with his wife. The couple enjoyed taking many trailer trips throughout California in addition to trips abroad to England, France and South Africa. Newcomb also was a member of Sons in Retirement and met regularly with fellow retirees over coffee.

Ever the providing father, Newcomb, in concert with his wife, lovingly cared for his son, Steve, throughout the ravages of brain cancer. Sadly, they lost him in April, 2005.

In June 2007, the Newcombs sold their long-time Pleasanton home and moved to Los Altos. He was pleased to find friendly neighbors and a welcoming parish, St. Nicholas Church, in his new community.

He is survived by his wife, Estelle, two daughters, Lucie and Caroline, and many family members and friends.

Newsline taking a break over the holidays

Newsline is taking a break for the holidays. The next edition of *Newsline*, the annual "look back" at highlights from the previous year (2007), will appear Friday, Jan. 4, 2008. *Newsline's* first regular edition will appear Jan. 11, 2008. The *Newsline* staff wishes you and yours the very best for the holidays.

NEWSLINE

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NNSA unveils plans for Complex Transformation

By David Schwoegler
Newsline staff writer

On Tuesday, NNSA announced the signing and approval of the Preferred Alternative for Complex Transformation in a draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS). LLNL Weapons and Complex Integration Principal Associate Director Bruce Goodwin addressed the plan and its future impact on the Laboratory, with a special focus on those who work in the nuclear weapons program at the main site and at Site 300.

Goodwin said the Laboratory supports NNSA's preferred alternative for the nuclear weapons complex. "And we are pleased to have been designated centers of excellence for nuclear design and high-density physics; a supercomputer platform host site for the Sequoia petascale machine; and a high-explosive research and development center, with the High Explosive Applications Facility for formulation, process and confined testing," Goodwin said.

"Complex transformation must take place with or without the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW)," Goodwin explained. "And we agree with NNSA, that if RRW is part of the future, the efficiency and responsiveness of the complex may be enhanced significantly over what can be achieved without RRW.

"We understand and support the consolidation that affects Site 300, the SuperBlock, as well as the engineering environmental testing facilities in Bldg. 334, and at Site 300."

He stressed that today national security is broader than in the past and includes:

"We are pleased to have been designated centers of excellence for nuclear design and high-density physics; a supercomputer platform host site for the Sequoia petascale machine; and a high-explosive research and development center, with the High Explosive Applications Facility for formulation, process and confined testing."

– Bruce Goodwin

- Conventional, nuclear, chemical and bio logical warfare deterrence
- Energy security
- Environmental protection
- Health and disease prevention
- Economics

The White House press secretary issued the following statement regarding Complex Transformation:

"The president has approved a significant reduction in the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile to take effect by the end of 2007. The president's decision, made on the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman with the full support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, follows a major reduction previously announced in 2004. As a result, the U.S. nuclear stockpile will be less than one-quarter its size at the end of the Cold War.

"The president's decision further advances policies that he has advocated since assuming office. We are reducing our nuclear weapons stockpile to the lowest level consistent with America's national security and our commitments to friends and allies. A credible deterrent remains an essential part of U.S. national security, and nuclear forces remain key to meeting emerging security challenges. The reduction is part of the president's overall strategy to transform the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and its supporting infrastructure to better meet the security needs of the 21st Century. It is a comprehensive effort to reduce U.S. reliance on nuclear weapons and streamline and modernize our nuclear infrastructure."

For the NNSA news release, see the Website at http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/docs/newsreleases/2007/PR_2007-12-18_NA-07-64.htm; to review specific changes for LLNL, go to the Web at http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/docs/ComplexTrans/LLNL.pdf; to see the overall plan, go to the Website at http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/complextransformation.htm.

Free medical screening for former LLNL employees

The Energy Employees Medical Monitoring Program has been providing free medical screening to former employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked in Department of Energy (DOE) facilities in Northern California. The group has screened 250 former LLNL employees since April 2006.

This program is a joint endeavor between Boston University School of Public Health and UC San Francisco, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The program is one of many across the country that provides free occupational health screenings for former workers from DOE facilities.

The goal of the program is two-fold; it helps to inform employees about potential health conditions they may not be aware of, and it contributes to the broader body of knowledge about the relationship between occupational exposures and the development of diseases.

The screening focuses on hazards that employees may have encountered while working at one or more of the labs. These include: asbestos, silica, radiation, excessive noise, lead, lasers, beryllium, solvents and other chemical and physical hazards. Employees may feel that they did not encounter these exposures. Either way, the screening offers employees one-on-one time with an occupational health provider and pays for tests that may help identify a new health condition or help confirm an existing one. It also may identify a need for on-going medical monitoring or it may help give an employee peace of mind.

While funding comes from DOE, the screeners do not provide any information that will identify an employee to DOE or provide identifying information to the Department of Labor or to the Lab. The group is independent from any legal or compensation programs. The screeners are public health professionals who care about health issues and worker safety. The staff has been involved in screening former Nevada Test Site workers for many years.

To learn more about this free and confidential program, call the office in Dublin at 925-551-7844, or check out the Website at http://www.bu.edu/formerworker. Feel free to let other retirees know about this program, even if they have moved away from the area. Staff members can refer them to an occupational health clinic

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